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TAGS= KPAL, PHUM, PINS, IS, GZ, (RABIN, YITZHAK)

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ACTION NEA-11

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O 281835Z OCT 88
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1733
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, KPAL, PINS, IS
SUBJECT: GAZA WRAP-UP; OCT 20-26, 1988

1. (U) SUMMARY: APPROXIMATELY 40 WERE WOUNDED IN INTIFADA VIOLENCE IN THE PERIOD, AND ONE WAS KILLED. TWO ISRAELI VEHICLES WERE STONED. AN OCT 26 GENERAL STRIKE GOT SOLID ADHERENCE, DESPITE CONFUSION OVER THE PROPER DATE. THE IDF DEMOLISHED ONE HOUSE AND SEALED FOUR OTHERS. DEFENSE MINISTER RABIN DENIED A REUTERS STORY THAT THE IDF HAD SET UP TWO "DEATH SQUADS," AND, RESPONDING TO THE DEATH OF A GAZA GIRL AND THE WOUNDING OF A NUMBER OF GIRLS AND SMALL CHILDREN IN GAZA, SAID IDF RULES OF ENGAGEMENT HAD NOT CHANGED. RABIN AND CHIEF OF STAFF SHOMRON ANTICIPATED INCREASED VIOLENCE AT THE TIME OF ISRAELI ELECTIONS (NOV 1), BALFOUR DAY (NOV 2), AND THE PNC MEETINGS. ABOUT 50 GAZANS WERE RELEASED FROM ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION. END

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SUMMARY

2. (U) APPROXIMATELY 40 WOUNDED:

-- ON OCT 21/22, APPROXIMATELY 20 GAZANS WERE

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REPORTED WOUNDED IN VARIOUS CLASHES IN RAFAH, KHAN YUNIS, SHATI REFUGEE CAMP, AND DAYR AL-BALAH CAMP (PRESS REPORTS DID NOT GIVE BREAKDOWN OF NUMBERS BY LOCATION). ONE OF THE WOUNDED WAS A 13 YEAR OLD GIRL.

-- ON OCT 23, TWO GAZANS WERE WOUNDED IN DISTURBANCES IN SHATI CAMP. IN RAFAH, ONE YOUTH WAS SLIGHTLY WOUNDED, AND, IN JABALYA CAMP, A RESIDENT WAS WOUNDED, APPARENTLY BY ANOTHER RESIDENT.

-- ON OCT 24, A SEVEN YEAR OLD RAFAH BOY WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN THE CHEST BY A PLASTIC BULLET. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE PRESS INITIALLY REPORTED THAT THE BOY HAD DIED OF HIS INJURIES, BUT LATER RETRACTED THE STORY, BASED APPARENTLY ON MISLEADING INFORMATION FROM TEL HASHOMER HOSPITAL WHERE HE WAS IN INTENSIVE CARE.

-- ALSO ON OCT 24, IN THE SAME DEMONSTRATION WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT INJURY OF THE SEVEN YEAR OLD BOY, A 16 YEAR OLD WAS WOUNDED WITH A PLASTIC BULLET. THREE YOUTHS IN NUSAIRAT CAMP, INCLUDING ONE GIRL, WERE ALSO WOUNDED.

-- ON OCT 25, THREE WERE WOUNDED IN GAZA CITY WHEN TROOPS OPENED FIRE AFTER AN IDF TANKER TRUCK CAME

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UNDER FIREBOMB ATTACK. THREE WERE WOUNDED IN NUSAIRAT CAMP, AND THREE OTHERS ELSEWHERE IN GAZA. A 23 YEAR OLD WAS WOUNDED IN SHATI CAMP.

-- ON OCT 26, FOUR WERE WOUNDED, INCLUDING A FIVE YEAR OLD BOY, IN VARIOUS CLASHES IN MAGHAZI AND JABALYA CAMPS, AND RAFAH TOWN.

3. (U) ONE KILLED; A SECOND DIES IN QUESTIONABLE CIRCUMSTANCES:

-- ON OCT 25, A 14 YEAR OLD GIRL WAS KILLED BY A PLASTIC BULLET IN SHATI CAMP WHEN IDF TROOPS, ATTACKED BY ROCKS AND FIREBOMBS, OPENED FIRE. THE IDF SAYS THAT ATTEMPTS TO DISPERSE THE DEMONSTRATORS FAILED, THE UNIT WAS IN DANGER, AND SOLDIERS FIRST FIRED INTO THE AIR AND THEN AT THE LEGS OF THE DEMONSTRATORS.

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-- ON OCT 26, A THREE YEAR OLD DIED IN KHAN YUNIS. HER FAMILY CLAIMED THE CAUSE WAS TEAR GAS INHALATION. HOWEVER, THE IDF ANNOUNCED OCT 27 THAT POST MORTEM REVEALED THE GIRL HAD DIED OF PNEUMONIA (PERHAPS COMPLICATED BY DOWNS SYNDROME AND A CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT). IDF SPOKESMAN COULD NOT SAY WHETHER THE GIRL HAD BEEN EXPOSED TO TEAR GAS. HOWEVER, JERUSALEM POST OF OCT 28 REPORTS AN EYEWITNESS CLAIM THAT TROOPS HAD THROWN A TEAR GAS GRENADE INTO THE GIRL'S HOUSE WHILE BREAKING UP A DEMONSTRATION.

4. (U) OTHER VIOLENCE:

-- ON OCT 26, TWO ISRAELI VEHICLES WERE STONED IN THE SOUTHERN GAZA STRIP.

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O 281835Z OCT 88
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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5. (U) CURFEWS:

-- ON OCT 21/22, IDF PLACED CURFEWS ON NUSAIRAT
AND JABALYA CAMPS, AND ON SHABURA NEIGHBORHOOD OF
RAFAH.

-- ON OCT 25, IDF PLACED A CURFEW ON SHATI CAMP
AFTER DISTURBANCES IN WHICH THE 14 YEAR OLD GIRL

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WAS KILLED, AND ON KHAN YUNIS CAMP. CURFEW REMAINED IN EFFECT ON NUSAIRAT CAMP.

-- ON OCT 26, SEVEN OF EIGHT REFUGEE CAMPS IN GAZA WERE REPORTED UNDER CURFEW.

6. [REDACTED] STRIKES:
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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-- A STRIKE CALLED FOR OCT 26 GOT NEARLY FULL PARTICIPATION IN GAZA, DESPITE APPARENT CONFUSION OVER THE ACTUAL STRIKE DATE. STRIKE PARTICIPATION WAS REPORTED MORE SPORADIC IN THE WEST BANK THAN IN GAZA. A UNIFIED LEADERSHIP PAMPHLET CALLED FOR A STRIKE OCT 26 TO COMMEMORATE A LATE-1950'S MASSACRE AT KFAR QASSIM, WHILE A HAMAS PAMPHLET CALLED OCT 29 THE PROPER COMMEMORATION DAY. THE PRESS REPORTED THAT THE UNIFIED LEADERSHIP, IN AN UNPRECEDENTED ACT OF COOPERATION WITH HAMAS, WITHDREW ITS STRIKE ORDER. RON KRUMER, TERRITORIES' COORDINATOR'S OFFICE DIRECTOR, GAVE US A DIFFERENT INTERPRETATION, CALLING THE LIMITED ADHERENCE IN THE WEST BANK THE RESULT OF CONFUSION OVER THE CORRECT DATE AND CONTRADICTION, LAST-MINUTE, WORD-OF-MOUTH INSTRUCTIONS THAT ONLY CONFUSED PEOPLE FURTHER.

-- COMMENT: THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GAZA AND WEST BANK ADHERENCE TO THE OCT 26 STRIKE MAY BE AN EXAMPLE OF REPORTED TIGHT INTIFADA DISCIPLINE IN GAZA. WE HAVE HEARD THIS PHENOMENON ATTRIBUTED TO GAZA'S MORE COMPACT, URBAN NATURE, AND TO THE PROMINENT ROLE OF GAZA'S ISLAMIC LEADERSHIP, WITH ITS REPUTATION FOR TIGHTER DISCIPLINE THAN THE MORE DOMINANT SECULAR LEADERSHIP OF THE WEST BANK. END COMMENT.

-- IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, OCT 29 HAS TO BE CONSIDERED A PROBABLE STRIKE DAY.

7. (U) DEMOLITIONS AND SEALINGS:
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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-- ON OCT 25, IDF FORCES DEMOLISHED THE RAFAH HOME OF A SUSPECTED ISLAMIC JIHAD MEMBER WHO IS ACCUSED OF STABBING FOUR WARDENS WHILE VISITING HIS BROTHER IN GAZA JAIL IN JULY. THE IDF ALSO SEALED FOUR HOMES IN KHAN YUNIS BELONGING TO FAMILIES OF PERSONS SUSPECTED OF THREATENING AND ATTACKING LOCAL EMPLOYEES OF THE CIVIL ADMINISTRATION.

8. (U) OFFICIAL, PUBLIC DENIAL OF IDF "DEATH SQUADS":

-- DEFENSE MINISTER RABIN DENIED THE TRUTH OF AN OCT 23 REUTERS STORY THAT SAID THE IDF HAD SET UP TWO UNDERCOVER UNITS AS "DEATH SQUADS." RABIN SAID IDF UNITS OPERATE WITHIN THE LAW.

9. (U) RABIN REAFFIRMS RULES OF ENGAGEMENT:

-- IN A TOUR OF GAZA, OCT 26, RABIN RESPONDED TO THE DEATH OF A GAZA GIRL AND THE WOUNDINGS OF GIRLS AND LITTLE CHILDREN, SAYING THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN THE IDF'S RULES OF ENGAGEMENT. HE SAID IT WAS ADVISABLE FOR LITTLE GIRLS NOT TO RUN AROUND WHEN VIOLENCE IS OCCURRING.

10. (U) RABIN AND SHOMRON ANTICIPATE INCREASED VIOLENCE:

-- IN COMMENTS TO THE PRESS ON OCT 25, RABIN SAID HE EXPECTED DISTURBANCES WOULD GET WORSE ON ISRAEL'S ELECTION DAY (NOV 1), ON BALFOUR DAY (NOV 2), AND AT THE TIME OF THE ANTICIPATED NOVEMBER PNC MEETINGS. IDF CHIEF OF STAFF SHOMRON ECHOED THESE SENTIMENTS IN COMMENTS MADE THE FOLLOWING

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O 281835Z OCT 88
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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DAY.

11. (U) GAZANS RELEASED FROM KETZIOT:

-- ON OCT 23, APPROXIMATELY 50 GAZANS WERE RELEASED FROM ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION IN KETZIOT, IN WHAT THE IDF CALLED A "HUMANE GESTURE." BEFORE THEIR RELEASE, AN IDF OFFICER WAS REPORTED TO HAVE EXPRESSED TO THEM THE HOPE THAT THEY WOULD NO LONGER PARTICIPATE IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES OR RIOTS.

12. [REDACTED] REPORTED RAID ON ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY:

-- FBIS (TA 2310130188) REPORTED THAT SECURITY FORCES HAD RAIDED GAZA'S ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY

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(PRECISE TIME NOT SPECIFIED) AND ARRESTED SUSPECTED ISLAMIC RESISTANCE LEADERS. RON KRUMER SAYS HE HAS NOT HEARD OF SUCH A RAID, AND DOUBTS ITS TRUTH SINCE THE UNIVERSITY REMAINS CLOSED, BUT WILL CHECK. PICKERING

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